

513

Torrance, California
August 26, 1942

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Wednesday, August 26, 1942, at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell, and McGuire. Absent: Councilmen: Cucci.

Everyone present in the Council Chamber Saluted the Flag!

Councilman Powell moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held August 11, 1942, be approved as written. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Clerk Bartlett, reading from Resolution No. 3434 of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, announced that the tax rate of the Metropolitan Water District is set at .48 for the fiscal year. Matter of record.

A communication from the County of Los Angeles, Office of H. L. Byram, Tax Collector, was read demanding that the City of Torrance provide funds for the payment of all delinquent assessments for all projects in this city under the Improvement Bond Act of 1915 for which current assessments have terminated but which have delinquent assessments for prior years still outstanding.

Clerk Bartlett stated that payments are already being made out of the general fund for the above stated purposes. Matter of record.

A communication from Mrs. Elles Cook was read requesting authorization to remove a large eucalyptus tree from the front of her property at 1405 Crenshaw Boulevard. Engineer Jain recommended that her request be granted.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Mrs. Cook's request be granted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication from the Torrance Businessmen's Association was read requesting early action with reference to the fulltime employment of a suitable person to coordinate the efforts of the Torrance Housing Committee, and calling attention to several enclosed clippings from newspapers regarding the need for adequate housing in this vicinity.

Councilman Powell moved that the communication from the Torrance Businessmen's Association be referred to the Council as a whole for immediate consideration and report at the next meeting. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication from the California Shipbuilding Corporation was read making inquiry concerning public transportation available to employees of the shipyards living in this community.

Councilman Babcock suggested that the Council confer as soon as possible in connection with this and similar matters concerning the bus lines. Councilman Babcock moved that the communication from the California Shipbuilding Corporation be turned over to the Council as a whole for study. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication from the Torrance Civil Service Board addressed to the City Council was read calling attention to the fact that in filling the vacancy caused by the induction of Judge John Shidler into military service a ninety-day temporary appointment is in order pending Civil Service Examinations for the position of "City Judge".

Councilman Powell moved that Otto B. Willett be temporarily appointed as City Judge to replace John A. Shidler who has been inducted into military service pending examinations for this position by the County Examining Board as per regulations of the City Civil Service Board. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication addressed to the City Council from Angel Molinar was read requesting authorization to move his pool hall from 228 Arlington Avenue to 203rd Street in Pueblo.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request be referred to the Police Department for their recommendation and approval if said department sees fit. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication addressed to the City Council and Civil Service Board from the President and Secretary of Local 360 of the State, County and Municipal Workers of America was read advising that at a called meeting by the Civil Service Board on Monday, August 17, 1942, a general protest was entered by the Torrance City employees through Local 360, S.C.M.W.A., asking that classification list as submitted for adoption be held for further consideration and allocation. The letter thereby entered written protest.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication be filed for future reference. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication addressed to the City Council from John E. Jeffery, Regional Director of the State, County, and Municipal Workers of America was read advising that at a special membership meeting of the Torrance City employees held Friday, August 21, the members unanimously voted to reject as unfair and incomplete the proposed plan of the City Council to place laborers on an hourly rather than a monthly pay schedule together with a small wage increase. The writer again requested that the City Council set a meeting date in the immediate future for the purpose of negotiating with the union on the question of wages, using a tentative City Budget as the basis for said negotiation.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Council set a date for a meeting with the City employees for the purpose of discussing the wage adjustment, said date to be arranged by the Mayor to accommodate the City Councilmen and the City employees. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication addressed to the City Council from the Treasury Department was read asking the Council as the governmental body of the City of Torrance to make it possible for city employees to help win the war by introducing legislative authorization instituting payroll deductions for the purchase of war bonds among city employees. The letter clearly stated that while the over-all and ultimate objective is 10 per cent of the payroll for war saving bonds, the amount of individual subscription is purely voluntary and optional.

A communication addressed to the City Council from the Chairman of the War Savings Bonds Committee of the City Employees was read asking the Council to authorize the City Clerk to establish a payroll deduction plan for the employees of the City of Torrance who desire to purchase United States War Savings Bonds, Series E, and Stamps, said employees to give their authorization to the City Clerk by signing standardized forms, and said deductions to be made as per agreement.

Another communication addressed to the City Council, signed by the President of Local No. 360, C.I.O., containing a similar request was read.

In the brief discussion which ensued, Clerk Bartlett assured everyone that the plan would be placed on a voluntary basis, and that the cards authorizing the deductions would be given only to those requesting them. He also advised that deductions could be made monthly or semi-monthly.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1546

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF TORRANCE INSTITUTING CITY EMPLOYEES'
VOLUNTARY ALLOTMENT PLAN FOR THE PURCHASE
OF UNITED STATES SAVING BONDS, SERIES "E".

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1546 be adopted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

Clerk Bartlett presented for second and final reading:

ORDINANCE NO. 337

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE FIXING
THE TAX RATES AND LEVYING TAXES FOR THE
FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 1942.

In accordance with the wishes of the Mayor and the other Councilmen, Clerk Bartlett merely read a portion of Ordinance No. 337, that portion being the table containing the actual tax rate.

Councilman Babcock moved that Ordinance No. 337 be adopted for final reading. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

Councilman Powell read a communication from Fire Chief J. E. McMaster recommending that in accordance with Civil Service Ordinance No. 249, Section 14, Engineer Parry, who acted as captain for the two-week period August 16 to August 31, 1942, while Captain Winters was on his vacation, receive the regular captain's salary for that two-week period.

Councilman Powell moved that Engineer Parry who acted as captain during the vacation period of Captain Winters receive the regular captain's salary for the two-week period August 16 to August 31 as per request of Chief McMaster and in accordance with Section 14 of Ordinance No. 249. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

Councilman Powell moved that the temporary City Judge (Otto B. Willett) be employed at a salary of \$155.00 per month, said employment effective as of August 19, 1942. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

Councilman Powell suggested that a resolution be drawn up to establish a two-way boulevard stop on Arlington Avenue at 220th Street as there have been several bad accidents at this location and in view of the fact that said location is in the immediate vicinity of the school grounds.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Attorney be authorized to draw up Resolution No. 1547 establishing a two-way boulevard stop on Arlington Avenue at 220th Street. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell moved that the Court Clerk's time be assigned primarily to the Police Court, City Judge, and Police Department; and that after her work in these departments is completed she may be summoned to any other department in the City Hall where she may be needed. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$200.00 be made for materials for the paving necessary to meet the new grade of the Santa Fe tracks at Madrid Avenue and Torrance Boulevard. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$100.00, plus tax, be made for materials for barricading windows in the Civic Auditorium--air raid protection against glass breakage. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$125.00, plus tax, be made for materials for the construction of a blacked-out ambulance entrance at the rear of the Auditorium. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the salary of W. C. Bradford, temporary engineering clerk, be increased \$10.00 per month beginning July 15, 1942. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

Mayor McGuire announced that at a meeting of the City Planning Commission (Public Hearing) held August 24, 1942, petitions from the Felker Manufacturing Company and the Mayfair Creamery, Ltd., for variance of Ordinance No. 316 were referred to the City Council with the recommendation that the variance be granted. Therefore Mayor McGuire moved that the requests for variance of Ordinance No. 316 be granted to the Felker Manufacturing Company and to the Mayfair Creamery, Ltd., as per their respective petitions and requests. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Gaston Arcq, President of the Kiwanis Club of Torrance, personally invited the City Councilmen to accept the civilian defense ambulance from the Kiwanis Club at the official presentation on Saturday, August 29, 1942, on the City Hall steps following a short band concert and a parade of Civilian Defense Workers at two o'clock; and stated that such civilian defense officials as John Stroh, Hal Kennedy, and Logan Cotton would deliver short addresses at that time. Mr. Arcq thanked the Council for authorizing the Municipal Band to play at the presentation.

Speaking on behalf of the Scrap Metal Committee, of which he is chairman, Mr. Arcq stated that he understood that the City Council had authorized municipal trucks to make a curb-to-curb pick up of scrap metal; but that he had run into trucks from Los Angeles (Salvation Army and Good Will trucks) whose drivers stated they had received instructions to pick up all the scrap in this City. He reported that the drivers were stopped and informed by Chief Stroh that they were not to pick up any salvage in Torrance and requested that reports be made of similar occurrences in the future inasmuch as the money obtained from the local drive will aid the Kiwanis Club in paying off the ambulance. He also asked that the Council designate specific days in the coming week for the collection of scrap metal so that proper notice might be given to the newspaper. Mayor McGuire suggested to Mr. Arcq that he confer with Mr. Gascoigne, Superintendent of Streets, Sewers, and Parks.

A gentleman in the audience discussed in brief the various deposit dumps for salvage in the City and suggested that the main dump be established across the street from the Post Office and that a notice be placed in the newspaper to that effect.

Mr. Evans, proprietor of the Torrance Gift and Stationery Store, registered complaints regarding the manner in which the Office of the Purchasing Agent has been functioning of late, his major complaint being that the City Purchasing Agent allegedly bought certain flags from the Easterday Supply Company at a price of \$3.80 each, and that the ceiling price for said flags was \$2.75. He also questioned Mr. Jain, City Engineer and Purchasing Agent, regarding the use of City men and equipment on a certain paving job on Cabrillo Avenue which had been awarded to a contractor. Mr. Jain advised that the contractor had reimbursed the City for use of same and had asked for the use of the men and equipment inasmuch as he had difficulty in obtaining men and equipment for a certain part of the work.

Mayor McGuire requested that Mr. Jain contact Mr. Evans and discuss the matter privately.

Mr. Arcq requested that as many City Officials as possible attend the ambulance presentation on Saturday at two o'clock on the City Hall steps.

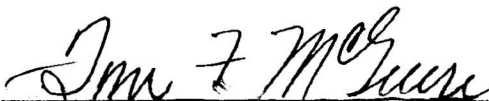
Mr. Jack Hallanger, Deputy City Clerk, referring to action taken earlier in the evening relative to the voluntary payroll deduction plan, suggested that said deductions be made the first part of each month by reason of the fact that deductions for insurance are made on the sixteenth of each month.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Powell, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Cucci.

At 8:36 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Hitchcock seconded by Councilman Babcock, the meeting adjourned.


City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:


Mayor of the City of Torrance